



Fisheries Committee
Meeting Summary – July 15, 2015
Commission Room, Raleigh NC

Fisheries Committee Chairman Wes Seegars called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Attendees

Committee Members

Wes Seegars, Chair
Joe Barker, Vice Chair
Mark Craig
Richard Edwards

Tim Spear
Neal Hanks
Brian White
Tommy Fonville

Commissioners

John Litton Clark

Staff

Gordon Myers
Betsy Haywood
Christian Waters
Shannon Deaton

Mallory Martin
Bob Curry
Jon Evans

Visitor

Wilson Laney, USFWS

Mountain Heritage Trout Water Assessment Update

Christian Waters provided an updated assessment which included a background of the program, a summary of license sales, results from a survey of 2014 Mountain Heritage Trout Waters license holders, results from interviews with Mountain Heritage Trout City representatives, program expenditures, estimates of potential lost revenue, and potential for program expansion. Bob Curry reviewed the criteria for participation in the Mountain Heritage Trout Waters program and the proposed process for considering new requests.

Action: The Fisheries Committee approved the proposed process for considering new requests for participation in the Mountain Heritage Trout Waters program and recommended approval by the full Commission at the meeting on July 16.

Bryson City Request

Bob Curry reviewed information on a request from Bryson City to be recognized as a Mountain Heritage Trout City and to have a 2.2 mile section of the Tuckasegee River designated as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters.

Action: The Fisheries Committee recommended that the Commission designate the Town of Bryson City as a Mountain Heritage Trout City and recognize the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters section of Tuckasegee River as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. The request will be presented for consideration by the full Commission as Exhibit C in the agenda package.

Additional Topics of Interest

Bob Curry provided a trout production update. In April, trout mortality occurred at the Armstrong State Fish Hatchery as a result of vandalism. Since that time, staff has worked diligently to recover from the loss. Recent inventories indicate that there are enough trout (>10 inches) to meet all stocking requests for the 2015 season (through August). Delayed harvest stockings starting in October will not be impacted. Curry indicated that at this point the WRC has no additional reserves.

Curry highlighted a phase II land acquisition to be considered by the Commission. The Max Lake Tract (**Exhibit F-3**) is an inholding at the McKinney Lake State Fish Hatchery.

Chairman Seegars adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.